

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the subject application. By the instant amendment, applicants amend claim 1 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 5, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and cancel claim 5, without prejudice. Further, applicants amend claim 2-4, which were each indicated as containing allowable subject matter, to be rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim, viz., claim 1. No new matter is added by the instant amendment. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 17 are independent.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge consideration of an Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 17, 2003, in the next Office action.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge applicants' claim for foreign priority in the next Office action. In support of this claim, a certified copy of applicants' corresponding foreign application, viz., Korean Patent Application No. 2001-28008, filed May 22, 2001, was filed in parent application Serial No. 09/989,112, now U.S. Patent No. 6,670,677, on November 21, 2001.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 6-25.

Claims 1-4 and 6-25 are presented to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,876,497 to Atoji ("the Atoji reference"), objected to claims 2-5 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, and allowed claims 6-25.

B. Asserted Anticipation Rejection of Claim 1

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Atoji reference.

By the instant amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5, and claim 5 is canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

C. Allowable Subject Matter

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner objected to claims 2-5 for depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the instant amendment, claims 2-4 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, viz., claim 1, and any intervening claims, of which there are none.

Accordingly, claims 2-4 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner allowed claims 6-25.

D. Conclusion

In view of the subject matter indicated as being allowable by the Examiner in the outstanding Office action and the amendments contained herein, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 and 6-25 are now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE & STERBA, P.C.

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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.